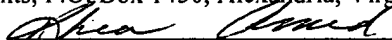


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Jay SHORT et al. Art Unit : 1652
Serial No. : 09/966,803 Examiner : Delia M. Ramirez, Ph.D.
Filed : September 27, 2001
Title : ENZYMES HAVING AMIDASE ACTIVITY AND METHODS OF USE
THEREOF

RECEIVED

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

FEB 24 2004

RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT

Sir:

Responsive to the non-final Office Action mailed August 12, 2003, Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments and consideration of the remarks set forth herein. The response was initially due November 12, 2003. Applicants herein submit a petition for a three month extension of time to February 12, 2004, under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, with the appropriate fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17. Accordingly, this Response is timely filed.

Amendments to the specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begin on page 9 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 14 of this paper.

The following documents are also enclosed herewith:

- Transmittal;
- Fee Transmittal;
- Petition for Three-Month Extension of Time;
- Corrected drawings (Figs. 1-7);
- Supplemental IDS, attaching Form 1449;
- Exhibits A (USPTO written description guidelines) and B (recently issued claims);
- Rule 132 declaration by Dr. Jay Short (Exhibit C);
- Dr. Short's resume (Exhibit D);
- Postcard.